

program or a program designed to help change somebody's heart. By the way, if your heart gets changed, it's a lot easier to quit drinking. I know. And so it's—so this is an opportunity that I think is a viable opportunity for Governors and States to really help people. And that's why we're in office, isn't it, is to do the best—[*applause*].

So regardless of your party, I hope you have this sense of optimism I do. You see the people in your States—we are lucky to be leaders in such a fabulous country, we really are—good, honest, decent, honorable people. We've overcome a lot. There's more to do. There's a lot we can do together. So thanks for coming by the White House.

That's my pledge. This is going to be a year in which a lot of people are probably going to think nothing can be done, right, because we're all out campaigning. Well, that's not my attitude. I fully understand it's going to be the year of the sharp elbow and the quick tongue. But my pledge to you is, we'll continue to work with you. You've got what you—you've got to do what you've got to do in your home States, in terms of politics. But surely we can shuffle that aside sometimes and focus on our people, do what you were elected to do and what I was elected to do to make this country hopeful.

So thanks for coming by. I'll be glad to answer a couple of questions.

You're out of here.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:20 a.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge; Gov. Michael F. Easley of North Carolina; Gov. Mark R. Warner of Virginia; Joyce Rumsfeld, wife of Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld; Karen Hughes, former Counselor to the President; Margaret Spellings, Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy; former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; Gov. Mike Huckabee of Arkansas; Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan; Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao; and Gov. Janet Napolitano of Arizona. The Office of the Press Secretary also re-

leased a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

## **Memorandum on Delegation of Certain Authority Under the United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003**

*February 23, 2004*

*Memorandum for the Secretary of State*

*Subject:* Delegation of Certain Authority Under the United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including section 301 of title 3, United States Code, I hereby delegate to you the functions and authority conferred upon the President by sections 202(c), 305, and 313 of the United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–25), to provide the specified reports to the Congress. In addition, I delegate to you the authority vested in the President by section 101 of Public Law 108–25 to establish a comprehensive, integrated, 5-year strategy to combat global HIV/AIDS and to submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report setting forth the strategy.

You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:20 a.m., February 26, 2004]

NOTE: This memorandum was published in the *Federal Register* on February 27.

**Message to the Senate Transmitting  
the United Nations Convention  
Against Transnational Organized  
Crime and Two Supplementary  
Protocols**

*February 23, 2003*

*To the Senate of the United States:*

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (the "Convention"), as well as two supplementary protocols: (1) the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and (2) the Protocol Against Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, which were adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on November 15, 2000. The Convention and Protocols were signed by the United States on December 13, 2000, at Palermo, Italy.

Accompanying the Convention and Protocols are interpretative notes for the official records (or "travaux préparatoires") that were prepared by the Secretariat of the Ad Hoc Committee that conducted the negotiations, based on discussions that took place throughout the process of negotiations. These notes are being submitted to the Senate for information purposes. I also transmit the report of the Department of State with respect to the Convention and Protocols.

The Convention and Protocols are the first multilateral treaties to address the phenomenon of transnational organized crime. Their provisions are explained in the accompanying report of the Department of State. The report also sets forth proposed reservations and understandings that would be deposited by the United States with its instruments of ratification. With these reservations and understandings, the Convention and Protocols will not require implementing legislation for the United States.

The Convention and Protocols will be effective tools to assist in the global effort to combat transnational organized crime in its many forms, such as trafficking and smuggling of persons. They provide for a broad range of cooperation, including extradition, mutual legal assistance, and measures regarding property, in relation to serious

crimes committed by an organized group that has a transnational element.

The Convention also imposes on the States Parties an obligation to criminalize, if they have not already done so, certain types of conduct characteristic of transnational organized crime. For the Convention, these are: participation in an organized criminal group (i.e., conspiracy), money laundering, bribery of domestic public officials, and obstruction of justice. The Protocols require parties to criminalize trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants. These provisions will serve to create a global criminal law standard for these offenses, several of which (e.g., trafficking in persons) currently are not criminal in many countries. The Trafficking Protocol also includes important provisions regarding assistance to and protection of victims of trafficking.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Convention and Protocols, and that it give its advice and consent to ratification, subject to the reservations and understandings described in the accompanying report of the Department of State.

**George W. Bush**

The White House,  
February 23, 2004.

**Remarks to the Republican  
Governors Association**

*February 23, 2004*

Thank you all very much. It is always an honor to welcome fellow Governors to Washington, DC. I'm a proud former member of the RGA. And tonight we're proud to welcome the newest members of this growing organization, Olene, Ernie, Haley, and Arnold. The Governor of California is new to politics, so he's still getting used to all the cameras and lights. [*Laughter*] I used to think the coolest Governor was from Florida. [*Laughter*]

The most distinguished former member of the RGA is a predecessor of Governor Schwarzenegger and a predecessor of mine. President Ronald Reagan had his 93d birthday this month, and tonight we want Nancy and his family to know we are thinking of